1. An apparatus for medium content identification, comprising:

a media content reader;

a programmed processor that creates a medium identifier from at least two of a number of tracks on the medium, a distance, and a track fingerprint read by the media content reader;

a server;

an interface that connects the programmed processor to the server; and

a database of content information searched by the server using the medium identifier.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the content information comprises information relating to at least two of track fingerprint information, media information, and metadata information.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the database comprises multiple databases with at least two of a fingerprint database, a media database, and a metadata database.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a local database with content comprising information relating to at least two of track fingerprint information, media information, and metadata information.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the local database comprises multiple databases with at least two of a fingerprint database, a media database, and a metadata database.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the interface comprises a network interface.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the network interface connects the programmed processor to the server over one of an Internet, a local area network, and a wide area network.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the medium identifier further comprises a track number for the track fingerprint.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the medium identifier further comprises a plurality of track fingerprints.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the programmed processor further performs a non-commercial medium test on the medium.

11. An apparatus for medium content identification, comprising:

means for reading information from a medium;

means for creating a medium identifier from at least two of a number of tracks on the medium, a distance, and a track fingerprint read from the medium;

means for retrieving information from a database of medium content information; and

means for searching the database of medium content information to retrieve medium content information by using the medium identifier.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the database of medium content comprises a remote database and comprises information relating to at least two of track fingerprint information, media information, and metadata information.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the database of medium content comprises multiple remote databases with at least two of a fingerprint database, a media database, and a metadata database.

14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the database of medium content comprises a local database and comprises information relating to at least two of track fingerprint information, media information, and metadata information.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the local database comprises multiple databases with at least two of a fingerprint database, a media database, and a metadata database.

16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for retrieving information comprises a network interface.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the network interface provides access to the database of medium content information through one of an Internet, a local area network, and a wide area network.

18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the medium identifier further comprises a track number for the track fingerprint.

19. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the medium identifier further comprises a plurality of track fingerprints.

20. A method of medium content identification, comprising:

performing a non-commercial medium test;

if the medium content comprises non-commercial content:

extracting fingerprints for all tracks of the medium content from the medium;

creating a medium identifier comprising fingerprints for all tracks of the medium content; and

searching a database with the medium identifier.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the medium identifier further comprises one of a distance and a number of tracks on the medium.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein if it cannot be determined that the medium content comprises non-commercial content, further comprising:

reading and calculating information related to medium content from a medium; and

creating a medium identifier from at least two of a number of tracks on the medium, a distance, and a track fingerprint calculated from the medium.

23. The method of claim 20, further comprising displaying the search results.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the searching comprises a search in a local database.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein the searching comprises a search in a remote database.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein searching in the remote database comprises searching through a network.

27. The method of claim 27, wherein the network comprises at least one of an Internet, a local area network, and a wide area network.

28. The method of claim 20, wherein the database comprises information relating to at least two of track fingerprint information, media information, and metadata information.

29. The method of claim 20, wherein the database comprises multiple databases with at least two of a fingerprint database, a media database, and a metadata database.

30. A computer readable medium storing instructions which, when executed on a programmed processor, carry out a process comprising:

performing a non-commercial medium test, comprising:

if the medium content comprises non-commercial content:

extracting fingerprints for all tracks of the medium content from the medium;

creating a medium identifier comprising fingerprints for all tracks of the medium content; and

searching a database with the medium identifier.

31. The computer readable medium of claim 30, further storing instructions which, when executed on the programmed processor, carry out a process of:

reading and calculating information related to medium content from a medium; and

creating a medium identifier from at least two of a number of tracks on the medium, a distance, and a track fingerprint calculated from the medium.

32. The computer readable medium of claim 30, further storing instructions which, when executed on the programmed processor, carry out a process of displaying the search results.

33. A method of medium content identification, comprising:

reading information related to medium content from a medium;

creating a medium identifier;

searching a local database for information using the medium identifier and creating local search results;

if information does not exist in the local database:

performing a non-commercial medium test;

if the non-commercial medium test is indeterminate:

requesting a search of a remote database using the medium identifier;

receiving a first remote search results from the remote database;

if either the medium content comprises non-commercial content or if information does not exist in the remote database:

extracting fingerprints for all tracks of the medium content from the medium;

creating an extended medium identifier comprising fingerprints for all tracks of the medium content; and

requesting a search of a remote database using the extended medium identifier; and

receiving a second remote search results from the remote database.

34. The method of claim 33, further comprising displaying at least one of the local search results, the first remote search results, and the second remote search results.

35. A computer readable medium storing instructions which, when executed on a programmed processor, carry out a process comprising:

reading information related to medium content from a medium, comprising:

creating a medium identifier;

searching a local database for information using the medium identifier and creating local search results;

if information does not exist in the local database:

performing a non-commercial medium test;

if the non-commercial medium test is indeterminate:

requesting a search of a remote database using the medium identifier;

receiving a first remote search results from the remote database;

if either the medium content comprises non-commercial content or if information does not exist in the remote database:

extracting fingerprints for all tracks of the medium content from the medium;

creating an extended medium identifier comprising fingerprints for all tracks of the medium content; and

requesting a search of a remote database using the extended medium identifier; and

receiving a second remote search results from the remote database.

36. The computer readable medium of claim 35, further storing instructions which, when executed on the programmed processor, carry out a process of displaying at least one of the local search results, the first remote search results, and the second remote search results.

37. An apparatus for medium content identification, comprising:

a media content reader;

a programmed processor;

an interface that connects the programmed processor to a remote server coupled to a database; and

wherein the programmed processor creates a medium identifier from at least two of a number of tracks on the medium, a distance, and a track fingerprint read by the media content reader and requests a database search from the remote server using the medium identifier.

38. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the database content comprises information relating to at least two of track fingerprint information, media information, and metadata information.

39. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the database comprises multiple databases with at least two of a fingerprint database, a media database, and a metadata database.

40. The apparatus of claim 37, further comprising a local database with content comprising information relating to at least two of track fingerprint information, media information, and metadata information.

41. The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the local database comprises multiple databases with at least two of a fingerprint database, a media database, and a metadata database.

42. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the interface comprises a network interface.

43. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the network interface connects the programmed processor to the remote server over one of an Internet, a local area network, and a wide area network.

44. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the medium identifier further comprises a track number for the track fingerprint.

45. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the medium identifier further comprises a plurality of track fingerprints.

46. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the programmed processor further performs a non-commercial medium test on the medium.

47. A method of testing a medium to determine whether it was non-commercially created, comprising:

determining if a drive comprises a recordable drive;

if the drive comprises a recordable drive:

determining whether a medium comprises a closed medium;

if the medium does not comprise a closed medium, the medium comprises non-commercial medium; and

carrying out a medium identification process that depends upon whether the medium is non-commercially created medium.

48. The method of claim 47, wherein determining whether the medium comprises a closed medium comprises using Red Book specifications.

49. The method of claim 47, further comprising if the drive comprises a recordable drive:

determining whether the medium comprises a writable medium; and

if the medium comprises a writable medium, the medium comprises non-commercial medium.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein determining whether the medium comprises a writable medium comprises using Orange Book specifications for CD-R and CD-RW.

51. The method of claim 49, wherein determining whether the medium comprises a writable medium comprises using ATIP (Absolute Time In Pre-groove) information for CD-R and CD-RW.

52. The method of claim 49, wherein determining whether the medium comprises a writable medium comprises using an R-W subcode on the medium for CD-R and CD-RW.

53. The method of claim 47, further comprising:

if the drive does not comprise a recordable drive:

performing a reflectivity test to determine if the medium comprises a re-writable medium; and

if the medium comprises a re-writable medium, the medium comprises non-commercial medium.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein performing the reflectivity test involves using a mode sense data signal from the drive.

55. The method of claim 47, wherein if the medium comprises non-commercial medium, carrying out a medium identification process comprising a fingerprinting process for all tracks on the medium and a database search for information on all tracks.

56. The method of claim 47, wherein if the medium does not comprise non-commercial medium, carrying out a medium identification process comprising a database search using at least two of a fingerprint for one track on the medium, a distance for the medium, and a number of tracks on the medium.

57. The method of claim 47, wherein if the medium comprises non-commercial medium, carrying out a medium identification process comprising a fingerprint search.

58. The method of claim 47, wherein if the medium does not comprise non-commercial medium, carrying out a medium identification process comprising a database search using information derived from a table of contents on the medium.

59. The method of claim 47, wherein if the medium does not comprise non-commercial medium and no table of contents exists on the medium, carrying out a medium identification process comprising a fingerprint search.

60. The method of claim 47, wherein if the medium does not comprise non-commercial medium, carrying out a medium identification process comprising a database search using information obtained from the table of contents on the medium.

61. The method of claim 47, wherein if the medium does not comprise non-commercial medium, carrying out a medium identification process comprising a database search using a medium identifier.

62. The method of claim 47, wherein if the medium comprises non-commercial medium, carrying out a medium identification process comprising a database search using an extended medium identifier comprising fingerprints for all tracks on the medium.

63. A computer readable medium storing instructions which, when executed on a programmed processor, carry out a process comprising:

determining if a drive comprises a recordable drive;

if the drive comprises a recordable drive:

determining whether a medium comprises a closed medium; and

if the medium does not comprise a closed medium, the medium comprises non-commercial medium.

64. The computer readable medium of claim 63, further storing instructions wherein, when executed on the programmed processor, the process of determining whether the medium comprises a closed medium comprises using Red Book specifications.

65. The computer readable medium of claim 64, further storing instructions which, when executed on the programmed processor, carry out a process of:

determining whether the medium comprises a writable medium; and

if the medium comprises a writable medium, the medium comprises non-commercial medium.

66. The computer readable medium of claim 65, further storing instructions wherein, when executed on the programmed processor, the process of determining whether the medium comprises a writable medium comprises using Orange Book specifications for CD-R and CD-RW.

67. The computer readable medium of claim 65, further storing instructions wherein, when executed on the programmed processor, the process of determining whether the medium comprises a writable medium comprises using ATIP (Absolute Time In Pre-groove) information for CD-R and CD-RW.

68. The computer readable medium of claim 65, further storing instructions wherein, when executed on the programmed processor, the process of determining whether the medium comprises a writable medium comprises using an R-W subcode on the medium for CD-R and CD-RW.

69. The computer readable medium of claim 63, further storing instructions which, when executed on the programmed processor, carry out a process of:

if the drive does not comprise a recordable drive:

performing a reflectivity test to determine if the medium comprises a re-writable medium; and

if the medium comprises a re-writable medium, the medium comprises non-commercial medium.

70. The computer readable medium of claim 69, further storing instructions wherein, when executed on the programmed processor, the process of performing the reflectivity test involves using a mode sense data signal from the drive.

71. A computer data signal embodied in a bit stream, comprising at least two of:

a segment of data representing a number of tracks of content on a medium;

a segment of data representing a distance calculation for the content on the medium; and

a segment of data representing a track fingerprint.

72. The computer data signal of claim 71, further comprising a segment of data representing a track fingerprint number.

73. The computer data signal of claim 71, further comprising a segment of data representing an indication that the bit stream comprises exactly one track fingerprint.

74. The computer data signal of claim 71, further comprising a segment of data representing an indication that the bit stream comprises multiple track fingerprints.

75. The computer data signal of claim 74, further comprising multiple segments of data each representing a track fingerprint for one track on the medium.

76. A computer data signal embodied in a bit stream, comprising:

a segment of data representing a number of tracks of content on a medium;

a segment of data representing a distance calculation for the content on the medium;

a segment of data representing an indication that the bitstream comprises track fingerprints for all tracks on the medium; and

multiple segments of data each representing a track fingerprint for one track on the medium.

77. A method of searching for medium content information, comprising:

receiving a medium identifier comprising at least two of:

a number of tracks of content on a medium;

a distance calculation for the content on the medium; and

a track fingerprint for one track on the medium;

searching a database using the medium identifier;

creating a media list comprising a list of information resulting from the search; and

returning the search results.

78. The method of claim 77, wherein the searching of the database comprises searching first for a fingerprint match, followed by searching for a distance match and then searching for a number of tracks match if the search results do not comprise a fingerprint match.

79. The method of claim 78, wherein an indication is made to the database that the medium identifier information should be added to the database when search results comprise matches for both the distance and the number of tracks when the search results do not comprise a fingerprint match.

80. The method of claim 77, wherein the searching of the database comprises searching first for a fingerprint match, followed by searching for a number of tracks match and then searching for a distance match if the search results comprise a fingerprint match.

81. The method of claim 80, wherein the searching of the database further comprises searching for a similar distance match if the search results do not comprise a distance match.

82. The method of claim 81, wherein an indication is made to the database that the medium identifier information should be added to the database when search results comprise matches for both a similar distance and the number of tracks when the search results also comprise a fingerprint match.

83. A computer readable medium storing instructions which, when executed on a programmed processor, carry out a process comprising:

receiving a medium identifier comprising at least two of:

a number of tracks of content on a medium;

a distance calculation for the content on the medium; and

a track fingerprint for one track on the medium;

searching a database using the medium identifier;

creating a media list comprising a list of information resulting from the search; and

returning the search results.

84. The computer readable medium of claim 83, further storing instructions wherein, when executed on the programmed processor, the process of the searching of the database comprises searching first for a fingerprint match, followed by searching for a distance match and then searching for a number of tracks match if the search results do not comprise a fingerprint match.

85. The computer readable medium of claim 83, further storing instructions wherein, when executed on the programmed processor, an indication is made to the database that the medium identifier information should be added to the database when search results comprise matches for both the distance and the number of tracks when the search results do not comprise a fingerprint match.

86. The computer readable medium of claim 83, further storing instructions wherein, when executed on the programmed processor, the process of the searching of the database comprises searching first for a fingerprint match, followed by searching for a number of tracks match and then searching for a distance match if the search results comprise a fingerprint match.

87. The computer readable medium of claim 86, further storing instructions wherein, when executed on the programmed processor, the process of the searching of the database comprises searching for a similar distance match if the search results do not comprise a distance match.

88. The computer readable medium of claim 87, further storing instructions wherein, when executed on the programmed processor, an indication is made to the database that the medium identifier information should be added to the database when search results comprise matches for both a similar distance and the number of tracks when the search results also comprise a fingerprint match.

89. A method of searching for medium content information, comprising:

receiving a medium identifier comprising:

a number of tracks of content on a medium;

a distance calculation for the content on the medium; and

track fingerprints for each track on the medium;

creating a list of track fingerprints;

searching a database using the list of track fingerprints;

creating a media list comprising a list of information for each track resulting from the search; and

returning the search results.

90. The method of claim 89, wherein the search results further comprise naming the medium by artist name if all tracks are by a same artist.

91. The method of claim 89, wherein the search results further comprise naming the medium as "various artists" if not all tracks are by a same artist.

92. A computer readable medium storing instructions which, when executed on a programmed processor, carry out a process comprising:

receiving a medium identifier comprising:

a number of tracks of content on a medium;

a distance calculation for the content on the medium; and

track fingerprints for each track on the medium;

creating a list of track fingerprints;

searching a database using the list of track fingerprints;

creating a media list comprising a list of information for each track resulting from the search; and

returning the search results.

93. The computer readable medium of claim 92, further storing instructions which, when executed on the programmed processor, carry out a process of naming the search results by artist name if all tracks are by a same artist.

94. The computer readable medium of claim 92, further storing instructions which, when executed on the programmed processor, carry out a process of naming the search results as "various artists" if not all tracks are by a same artist.

95. A method of medium content identification, comprising:

verifying that a high-speed communication channel to a remote database exists;

extracting fingerprints for all tracks of the medium content from the medium;

creating a medium identifier comprising fingerprints for all tracks of the medium content;

searching a local database for content information; and

if content information does not exist in the local database:

searching the remote database with the medium identifier.

96. The method of claim 95, wherein the medium identifier further comprises one of a distance and a number of tracks on the medium.

97. The method of claim 95, further comprising displaying the search results.

98. The method of claim 95, wherein the high-speed communication channel is a network and the searching in the remote database comprises searching through the network.

99. The method of claim 98, wherein the network comprises at least one of an Internet, a local area network, and a wide area network.

100. A computer readable medium storing instructions which, when executed on a programmed processor, carry out a process of:

verifying that a high-speed communication channel to a remote database exists;

extracting fingerprints for all tracks of the medium content from the medium;

creating a medium identifier comprising fingerprints for all tracks of the medium content;

searching a local database for content information; and

if content information does not exist in the local database:

searching the remote database with the medium identifier.